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Message Text

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13
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 RSR-01 /053 W
---------- 083098
R 162215 Z MAY 73
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2681
AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUAYAQUIL 530

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRN, EC
SUBJ: CLOSURE OF GUAYAQUIL AIRPORT

REF: A. GUAYAQUIL 465; B. STATE 89351

1. LOCAL CIVAIR OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO INDICATE DEFINITE INTENTIONS TO CLOSE GUAYAQUIL AIRPORT' S MAIN LANDING STRIP FOR EXTENSIVE REPAIRS ON MAY 20 ALTHOUGH, AS OF PRESENT DATE, NO FIRM FINAL PLANS FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE HAVE BEEN MADE.

2. USE OF THE AIR FORCE BASE AT TAURA, ONLY A FEW MILES OUTSIDE GUAYAQUIL, HAS BEEN DEFINITELY REJECTED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON DEFENSE SECURITY GROUNDS. IT NOW APPEARS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT THE LITTLE- USED 8,000- PLUS FOOT MILITARY AIRSTRIP NEAR SALINAS, 85 MILES BY ROAD FROM GUAYAQUIL, WILL BE PRESSED INTO USE. VISITING BRANIFF OFFICIAL CHARLES SOUTH REPORTS HAVING INSPECTED AIRFIELD WITH LOCAL BRANIFF AND OTHER AIRLINE OFFICIALS AND THEY CONCUR THAT STRIP IS ENTIRELY ADEQUATE FOR FULL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE. BRANIFF HAS EXTRA LIGHTING FACILITIES STOCKPILED IN U. S. AND IS PREPARED TO AIRLIFT HERE AND INSTALL " FOR THE DURATION", THUS ALLOWING NIGHTTIME OPERATIONS. LAN- CHILE HAS ALSO RUN AN UNLOADED CARGO PLANE (727) INTO SALINAS AND APPEARS SATISFIED WITH FACILITIES THERE.

3. REMAINING PROBLEM IS OF COURSE MOVEMENT OF PASSENGERS BETWEEN
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GUAYAQUIL AND SALINAS. BRANIFF SPOKESMEN HOPE TO EFFECT TRANSFER VIA ECUADOREAN LOCAL AIRLINE TAME, WHOSE PROP- DRIVEN EQUIPMENT WILL CONTINUE TO USE GUAYAQUIL TAXIWAY FOR ALL OPERATIONS. THIS WILL OBVIATE NECESSITY FOR INSTALLING TEMPORARY CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FACILITIES AT SALINAS. SINCE MOST GUAYAQUIL TRAFFIC IS AT NIGHT AND TAME SCHEDULES ONLY DAYTIME FLIGHTS, THERE WOULD BE NO APPARENT SCHEDULING CONFLICTS. HOWEVER, WILLINGNESS OF TAME CREWS TO EFFECT NIGHT OPERATIONS REMAINS TO BE ESTABLISHED. INTERESTED AIRLINES, LED BY BRANIFF OFFICIALS, ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING QUESTION WITH TAME IN QUITO. WE WISH THEM SUCCESS, AS ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD APPEAR TO BE HAIR- RAISING TWO- HOUR BUS RIDE BETWEEN AIRPORTS. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
LUBENSKY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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